

Abstract

A PC-based system for monitoring and storing representative images from video cameras may be utilized for security or other monitoring applications. Camera inputs from digital or analog sources are individually and independently digitized and displayed at a first set of temporal and spatial parameters corresponding to a set of image sizes, sampling rates, and frame rates, and may be stored in digital form on various recording media at a second set of temporal and spatial parameters corresponding to a set of image sizes, sampling rates, and frame rates, and these two sets of temporal and spatial parameters corresponding to sets of sizes and rates may or may not be identical. Provisions are included for adding detection or alarm systems which will automatically alter image size, sampling rate and/or frame rate of an individual input source, or activate other physical responses. In addition to security system monitoring, further applications of the invention are disclosed for process monitoring in manufacturing environments and also for applications in videoconferencing.